



For Release: Wednesday, June 14, 2017

17-832-NEW

NEW YORK–NEW JERSEY INFORMATION OFFICE: New York City, N.Y.

Technical information: (646) 264-3600 BLSinfoNY@bls.gov www.bls.gov/regions/new-york-new-jersey

Media contact: (646) 264-3620

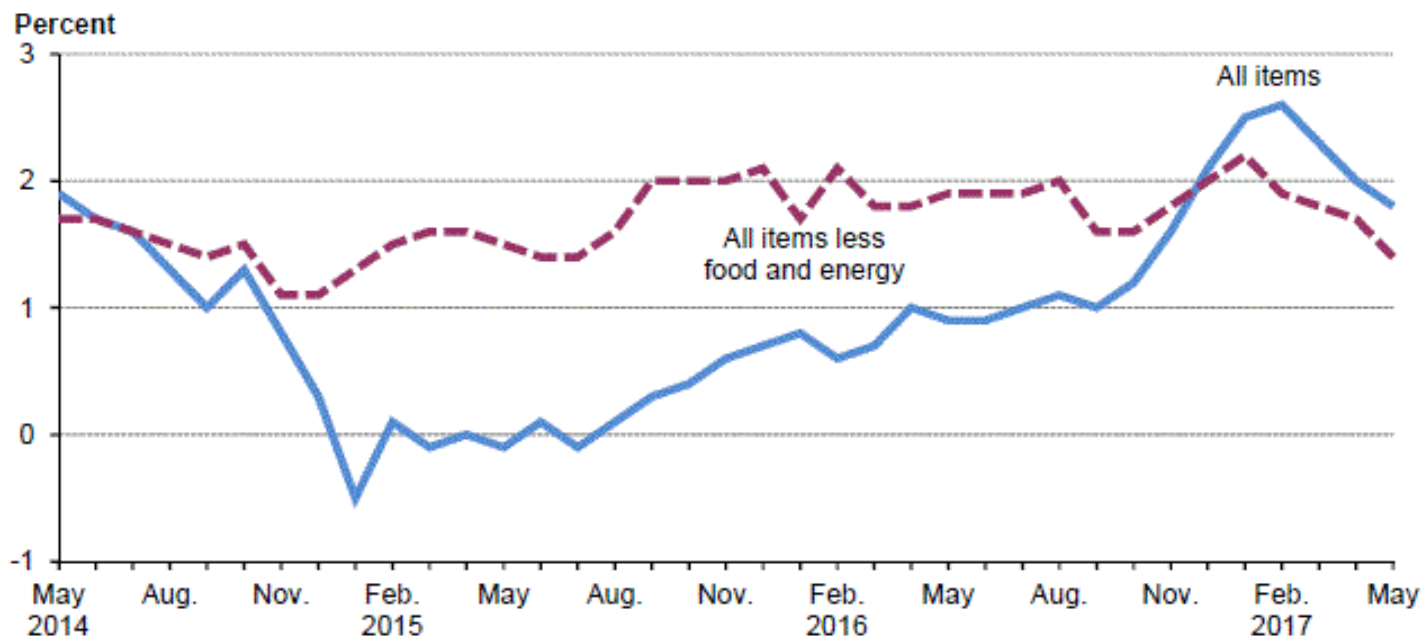
## Consumer Price Index, New York-Northern New Jersey – May 2017

### Area prices up 0.1 percent over the month and 1.8 percent over the year

Prices in the New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island area, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), inched up 0.1 percent for the second consecutive month in May, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Chief Regional Economist Martin Kohli attributed the May increase to a rise in energy prices that was partly offset by a decline in food prices. (Data in this report are not seasonally adjusted. Accordingly, month-to-month changes may reflect the impact of seasonal influences.)

Over the year, the CPI-U rose 1.8 percent. The index for all items less food and energy increased 1.4 percent. (See [table A.](#)) Since February, the over-the-year increases for both series have been declining. (See [chart 1.](#)) Price increases for shelter drove the 12-month changes. (See [table 1.](#))

**Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, May 2014–May 2017**



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

### Food

The food index edged down 0.2 percent, following a 0.5-percent increase during each of the two prior months. A 0.5-percent decline in prices for food at home led to the downturn, with lower prices reported for lettuce, ham, and coffee among other groceries. Prices for food away from home, on the other hand, rose 0.2 percent.

For the year ended in May 2017, the food index increased 1.3 percent. Prices for food away from home rose 2.6 percent, and prices for food at home increased 0.3 percent.

## Energy

The energy index advanced 2.1 percent, after rising 1.3 percent in April. Electricity prices jumped 6.4 percent in May, the largest increase since the introduction of seasonal surcharges of 8.8 percent last June. Natural gas prices, in contrast, decreased 0.6 percent, helping to temper the rise in household energy prices (3.2 percent). Gasoline prices, decelerating from a 3.5 percent rise one month earlier, rose 0.6 percent.

From May 2016 to May 2017, energy prices increased 9.9 percent, with a 9.5-percent increase in gasoline prices and a 10.2-percent rise in household energy prices. Within household energy, prices increased for natural gas (12.2 percent) and for electricity (8.8 percent).

## All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy was unchanged for the third consecutive month in May. Shelter prices ticked up 0.1 percent despite a 0.3-percent rise in residential rent coupled with a 0.4-percent increase in owners' equivalent rent. Medical care prices rose 0.6 percent. These increases were offset by a seasonal decline in apparel (-2.4 percent) and lower prices for education and communication (-0.5 percent, resulting in part from price reductions for land-line telephone services).

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy rose 1.4 percent. Shelter prices increased 2.5 percent, including a 2.5-percent rise in owners' equivalent rent and a 2.6-percent increase in residential rent. Medical care prices rose 2.8 percent, and recreation prices, 3.1 percent. In contrast, prices for education and communication were down 0.6 percent.

**Table A. New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island CPI-U 1-month and 12-month percent changes (not seasonally adjusted)**

Month	2012		2013		2014		2015		2016		2017	
	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month
January.....	0.4	2.8	0.5	2.2	0.9	1.9	0.1	-0.5	0.2	0.8	0.6	2.5
February.....	0.4	2.6	0.6	2.4	-0.2	1.1	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.6	0.3	2.6
March.....	0.6	2.6	0.1	1.9	0.4	1.3	0.2	-0.1	0.2	0.7	0.0	2.3
April.....	0.2	2.4	-0.2	1.4	0.0	1.6	0.1	0.0	0.4	1.0	0.1	2.0
May.....	0.1	1.8	0.1	1.4	0.5	1.9	0.4	-0.1	0.3	0.9	0.1	1.8
June.....	-0.1	1.6	0.3	1.8	0.0	1.7	0.2	0.1	0.2 <sup>(r)</sup>	0.9 <sup>(r)</sup>		
July.....	-0.2	1.1	0.2	2.1	0.1	1.6	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	1.0		
August.....	0.6	1.4	0.1	1.7	-0.2	1.3	0.1	0.1	0.2	1.1		
September.....	0.4	1.6	0.3	1.6	0.0	1.0	0.2	0.3	0.2	1.0		
October.....	-0.1	1.7	-0.6	1.1	-0.2	1.3	-0.1	0.4	0.1	1.2		
November.....	0.0	2.0	0.1	1.2	-0.4	0.8	-0.2	0.6	0.2	1.6		
December.....	-0.3	2.1	0.0	1.5	-0.5	0.3	-0.4	0.7	0.1	2.1		

Footnotes:  
(R) = revised.

## CPI-W

In May, the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) was 262.825, up 0.1 percent over the month. The CPI-W rose 2.0 percent over the year.

**The June 2017 Consumer Price Index for New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island is scheduled to be released Friday, July 14, 2017, at 8:30 a.m. (ET).**

## Technical Note

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a measure of the average change in prices over time in a fixed market basket of goods and services. The Bureau of Labor Statistics publishes CPIs for two population groups: (1) a CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) which covers approximately 89 percent of the total population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers approximately 28 percent of the total population. The CPI-U includes, in addition to wage earners and clerical workers, groups such as professional, managerial, and technical workers, the self-employed, short-term workers, the unemployed, and retirees and others not in the labor force.

The CPI is based on prices of food, clothing, shelter, and fuels, transportation fares, charges for doctors' and dentists' services, drugs, and the other goods and services that people buy for day-to-day living. Each month, prices are collected in 87 urban areas across the country from about 6,000 housing units and approximately 24,000 retail establishments--department stores, supermarkets, hospitals, filling stations, and other types of stores and service establishments. All taxes directly associated with the purchase and use of items are included in the index.

The index measures price changes from a designated reference date (1982-84) that equals 100.0. An increase of 16.5 percent, for example, is shown as 116.5. This change can also be expressed in dollars as follows: the price of a base period "market basket" of goods and services in the CPI has risen from \$10 in 1982-84 to \$11.65. For further details see the CPI home page on the Internet at [www.bls.gov/cpi](http://www.bls.gov/cpi) and the BLS Handbook of Methods, Chapter 17, The Consumer Price Index, available on the Internet at [www.bls.gov/opub/hom/pdf/homch17.pdf](http://www.bls.gov/opub/hom/pdf/homch17.pdf).

In calculating the index, price changes for the various items in each location are averaged together with weights that represent their importance in the spending of the appropriate population group. Local data are then combined to obtain a U.S. city average. Because the sample size of a local area is smaller, the local area index is subject to substantially more sampling and other measurement error than the national index. In addition, local indexes are not adjusted for seasonal influences. As a result, local area indexes show greater volatility than the national index, although their long-term trends are quite similar. **NOTE: Area indexes do not measure differences in the level of prices between cities; they only measure the average change in prices for each area since the base period.**

The New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, N.Y.-N.J.-Conn.-Pa. consolidated area covered in this release is comprised of Bronx, Dutchess, Kings, Nassau, New York, Orange, Putnam, Queens, Richmond, Rockland, Suffolk, and Westchester Counties in New York State; Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Morris, Ocean, Passaic, Somerset, Sussex, Union, and Warren Counties in New Jersey; Fairfield County and parts of Litchfield, Middlesex, and New Haven Counties in Connecticut; and Pike County in Pennsylvania.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: (202) 691-5200; Federal Relay Service: (800) 877-8339.

**Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods, New York-Northern N.J.-Long Island, NY-NJ-CT-PA (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)(not seasonally adjusted)**

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	March 2017	April 2017	May 2017	May 2016	March 2017	April 2017
<b>Expenditure category</b>						
All items .....	267.582	267.948	268.183	1.8	0.2	0.1
All items (1967=100) .....	773.542	774.600	775.280			
Food and beverages .....	259.424	260.491	259.929	1.2	0.2	-0.2
Food .....	259.498	260.674	260.113	1.3	0.2	-0.2
Food at home .....	250.689	252.619	251.321	0.3	0.3	-0.5
Food away from home.....	278.974	279.083	279.580	2.6	0.2	0.2
Alcoholic beverages .....	254.000	253.582	253.006	-0.8	-0.4	-0.2
Housing .....	289.620	289.908	290.950	2.7	0.5	0.4
Shelter .....	366.030	366.709	367.192	2.5	0.3	0.1
Rent of primary residence(1).....	378.523	378.952	380.197	2.6	0.4	0.3
Owners' equivalent rent of residences(1)(2) ..	371.896	372.122	373.435	2.5	0.4	0.4
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence(1)(2) .....	371.431	371.660	372.968	2.5	0.4	0.4
Fuels and utilities.....	186.430	186.115	191.160	8.8	2.5	2.7
Household energy .....	178.134	177.792	183.438	10.2	3.0	3.2
Energy services(1) .....	171.430	171.091	178.062	9.9	3.9	4.1
Electricity(1).....	176.237	174.619	185.867	8.8	5.5	6.4
Utility (piped) gas service(1).....	153.583	155.490	154.628	12.2	0.7	-0.6
Household furnishings and operations .....	110.465	109.807	109.909	-2.6	-0.5	0.1
Apparel .....	133.045	130.086	126.946	-1.2	-4.6	-2.4
Transportation .....	211.912	214.862	215.630	1.3	1.8	0.4
Private transportation .....	197.863	199.689	199.906	1.6	1.0	0.1
Motor fuel .....	191.121	197.812	198.945	9.6	4.1	0.6
Gasoline (all types).....	190.285	196.995	198.136	9.5	4.1	0.6
Gasoline, unleaded regular(3).....	188.519	195.682	196.769	9.8	4.4	0.6
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(3)(4).....	202.504	206.500	208.296	8.4	2.9	0.9
Gasoline, unleaded premium(3) .....	204.318	208.244	209.683	7.9	2.6	0.7
Medical care .....	476.228	471.473	474.273	2.8	-0.4	0.6
Recreation(5).....	123.262	123.860	123.371	3.1	0.1	-0.4
Education and communication(5).....	142.675	142.737	142.055	-0.6	-0.4	-0.5
Other goods and services .....	418.840	416.715	417.646	0.8	-0.3	0.2
<b>Commodity and service group</b>						
All items .....	267.582	267.948	268.183	1.8	0.2	0.1
Commodities .....	188.169	187.872	187.359	0.5	-0.4	-0.3
Commodities less food and beverages .....	144.434	143.523	143.062	0.0	-0.9	-0.3
Nondurables less food and beverages.....	183.575	181.968	181.267	1.9	-1.3	-0.4
Durables .....	94.884	94.726	94.537	-3.4	-0.4	-0.2
Services.....	334.838	335.718	336.528	2.4	0.5	0.2
<b>Special aggregate indexes</b>						
All items less medical care.....	258.519	259.097	259.225	1.8	0.3	0.0

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

**Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods, New York-Northern N.J.-Long Island, NY-NJ-CT-PA (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)(not seasonally adjusted) - Continued**

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	March 2017	April 2017	May 2017	May 2016	March 2017	April 2017
All items less shelter.....	228.609	228.849	228.984	1.4	0.2	0.1
Commodities less food .....	148.607	147.706	147.239	-0.1	-0.9	-0.3
Nondurables .....	223.143	222.795	222.148	1.5	-0.4	-0.3
Nondurables less food.....	187.884	186.345	185.651	1.6	-1.2	-0.4
Services less rent of shelter(2).....	311.779	312.899	314.084	2.3	0.7	0.4
Services less medical care services.....	323.561	324.510	325.345	2.3	0.6	0.3
Energy .....	185.553	187.875	191.888	9.9	3.4	2.1
All items less energy .....	277.401	277.587	277.470	1.4	0.0	0.0
All items less food and energy .....	282.391	282.411	282.368	1.4	0.0	0.0

Footnotes(1) This index series was calculated using a Laspeyres estimator. All other item stratum index series were calculated using a geometric means estimator.

(2) Index is on a December 1982=100 base.

(3) Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

(4) Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

(5) Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

Note: Index applies to a month as a whole, not to any specific date.

The New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, NY-NJ-CT-PA consolidated area comprises the five boroughs of New York City, Nassau, Suffolk, Westchester, Rockland, Putnam, Dutchess, and Orange Counties in New York State; Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Hunterdon, Mercer, Monmouth, Middlesex, Morris, Ocean, Passaic, Somerset, Sussex, Union, and Warren Counties in New Jersey; Fairfield County and parts of Litchfield, New Haven, and Middlesex Counties in Connecticut; and Pike County in Pennsylvania.